

**CITY OF KANKAKEE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SUMMARY OF MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 4TH, 2019
7:00 P.M.**

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: I would like to call the meeting to order. We will start with a prayer by Carl Randle of Fair Haven Church and go on to the pledge of allegiance by Kankakee High School – Drama- the Cast of “HAIRSPRAY”.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

LANCE MARZAC: Tonight may be my last time talking about this bike issue. Two business owners were in the hospital and they needed a voice. I have stood before with other building owners concerned with the loss of parking with this project. This is not about politics this is about hope and finding a solution and doing the right thing. If anyone can’t see that East Avenue is a safer rout opposed to Schuyler then I don’t know what else to say. Just this week there was another accident with multiple injuries on Schuyler down by No Dawgs. There are many people that will complain about things and won’t find solutions but with this I have been committed and gone the extra mile trying to find a Win-Win solution. Keep the Streetscape part but change the location of the Bike Lanes...a painted line will not keep cyclers safe...

AARON BRYANT: On June 8th I took my daughter to the hospital to be treated. As we were leaving the hospital her mother attached me and my daughter. The police are aware of this. I filed a battery complaint and went to check on it. Tracy Monferdini refused to give me a case statement and I can’t get an update on my case. I made three citizen complaints. I went to speak with Bartlett and I was threatened with a restraining order. Now every time I come to the Police department I have to have an escort. I was told Chief Hunt would come down and explain this to me but instead Officer Skelly came down which is why I am here today. I want to share with you do not vote for Skelly...the two officers that treat me with respect are Raimando and Melvina...

LYNN JAFFE:

I would still like to see the bike path put down East Avenue. I would love to see it because it would not cause any problems and I don't want to see anyone get hurt. Two of my tenants are here today and they are on North Schuyler, they have a business now open and it is called Palace. I am lobbying for them to keep their parking spaces as well in front of the building. Magnum Insurance were going to come tonight...I would just love to see it put down East Avenue that's all.

CORRAN & DERRECA CLARK: Me and my lovely wife opened a business downtown Kankakee. I am a Barber and my wife is a makeup artist. Taking parking spaces away when it's already limited...women & kids will have to walk a block away when they shouldn't have to. It would be smart to leave parking downtown.

SUSAN HANKE:

I have lived on Wildwood Avenue for three years. I retired to Kankakee. Last summer, Nicor did a survey on Cobb Blvd. I have spoken to you...many people have an opposition. We don't want the trees knocked down. It is a beautiful historic area and we want to keep it that way. I have a petition of 12 people to submit. As far as I am aware, Nicor tabled the issue for now. I know a new gas line is needed. Don't let Nicor go through Cobb. Several meetings are coming up if any of you would like to attend please do so. Thank you for your time.

JESS GATHING:

I stand before you tonight... I am not a stranger to this place. I had two four year terms as Alderman, eight years as Park Commissioner and I am about to start my 7th year with the Kankakee School District. We had a grant that was written...soft money...the school district got one of the biggest grants this city has every received 29 million dollars for the Kankakee Schools and 20 million will be put into the high school. Recently, we found someone to write us a grant for a half million dollars. It's a safety grant for security and lighting etc...with prayers and hop that you guys will sign off on the grant. Kankakee School District will much appreciate it. We are having our Grand Opening on April 6th and you all are invited. You will get to see what grant money can do for a community. This Spring or Summer we will start another phase of renovations. We will continue to look for grants for our schools...if we can it the grant signed we can start the good work of making Kankakee High School a better place for our children and

you as a community to live in.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: I don't usually respond to public comments but I am going to in this case because there has been an obvious disconnect with communication and this could have been cleared up with a phone call to me. So what would like to say is the School District and the City has always had a good relationship I working together since I have been here. We look for ways to partner, we want to partner; we believe in collaboration. This COPS grant that came up, I received all call from the Superintendent on a Sunday night which was the night before our City Council meeting. Our agenda had already went out so I just want to walk you through the facts of what has happened. So I got a call on Sunday night, the Superintendent then came to the City Council Meeting the next day. Prior to her presenting to City Council, I had three concerns.

1. I did not want the Council blindsided. They didn't have any information or anytime to look into this.
2. I was concerned about the impact it would have on the Comptroller's Office if they would have the capacity to administer the grant.
3. Any cost to the City.

So when the Superintendent present, our Attorney advised that it wasn't on the Agenda we couldn't take action but there could be a consensus given and the Council agreed to that. Again, because we want to work with everybody in the Community and we all care about our kids and our schools. So with that being said, the District went forward with the grant. Keep in mind that we are the Fiscal Agent for the grant and I confirmed that with our Comptroller and so at the time when the consensus was given, our Attorney indicated would we recoup any cost for this grant. I believe the Aldermen here, Alderman Curtis inquired about the match. I think Alderman Tetters asked would there be any cost to the City and we were led to believe there would not be any cost. At the time maybe you didn't know there would be cost. Fast forward...I believe it was October 2nd we were notified and correct me Elizabeth jump in if I am off...that the grant was awarded. I had been told that a woman named Meggy I believe that is out in Washington State or Oregon that would be working on the grant. I know Elizabeth had worked closely with her. Elizabeth was even on vacation working on this grant with her and so we were notified October 2nd we were awarded with the grant. I did not realize Elizabeth was not on that email. So

we got another email on February 7th, I immediately forwarded the email to Elizabeth saying we need to take care of this. What's going on with the grant? Elizabeth came downstairs to my office and we were on the phone with a woman named Angel and she told me at that time that I could not sign off on the grant because the Mayor and the Police Chief had to sign off. I explained to her we do not have a Police Chief and we are in the process of getting a Chief and that we probably would not have anyone in place until May 1st because this person is going to come before Council today and that person would have to give notice to their employer. She said no problem...I said we have a Deputy Chief that's the purpose of the Deputy Chief to stand in for the Chief. She said he you can't sign it; it has to be the Police Chief. We were given a 60 day extension until April 7th. Elizabeth went back upstairs to her office. Angel called Elizabeth back and said I made a mistake the Mayor can sign off on the grant. Elizabeth came downstairs and told me that. I said okay, have you guys worked out the financial piece? They hadn't come to a conclusion with that yet. Elizabeth has been working with our Auditors and if I am correct, our Auditors told you that if a grant is over \$100,000.00 we have to have a separate Audit. Elizabeth and Rod of the School District the Business Manager had a very thorough conversation about the hard cost of the grant. I told Elizabeth at that time we don't have to charge for personnel we want to work together and be partners our labor can be...but the hard cost of the Audit will be \$2500.00. She negotiated because our auditors said \$2500.00 - \$3500.00. She told them it needs to be \$2500.00. This is what I was informed about February 18th. The next day got a FOIA from the School District wanting all the emails. A day later my office was called, Dr. Walters requested a meeting with me which was scheduled March 7th this week. February 24th an email went out to the entire Council, the Board, Bill Yonka, some other people and...the media. We are not trying to hinder the grant. We are not trying to stop a grant from being signed. I thought when we meet on March 7th this week we would be discussing the details of that assessing all the cost are going to be because we thought it was going to be a cost neutral partnership. That's where we were at. Now I got an email this afternoon that the meeting has been cancelled by Dr. Walters and that they are going to pay for the \$2500.00 audit. I have consulted with Alderman Baron who is our Chairperson of our budget

and told him what was going on and recommended that we discuss this in the budget meeting. I understand that this helps the City in terms of lighting and safety. That goes along with what we want to do with of safety initiatives but I can't make that decision by myself. That is the roll of the Council; your role is to approve expenditures or in this case if you want to wave hard cost to the City and the taxpayers then you all have to make that decision. If I would have signed off on it that day, I would have been making that decision without your consent and we don't have an agreement. We haven't entered into an agreement. There are no terms of an agreement so I can't do that. The grant is not in jeopardy, we have 60days which is April 7th. I am confident we meet for budget next Thursday, March 14th and I am confident that we can get an agreement before the Council meeting on March 18th. This is a discussion that needs to go before the City Council because we were told initially that there were no cost to the City and now we have found that there are hard costs to the City. So that's the update on the grant. Moving on to Roll Call...

CLERK DUMAS:

PRESENT: Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Baron, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Swanson, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Kennedy
(14) Present (0) Absent

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Thank you. Department Heads.

CLERK DUMAS:

PRESENT: Hunt, Schuldt, Kubal, McGrath, Schiel, Piggush, Nelson, Bertrand, Koehler. Thank you.

MINUTES

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Moving on to the minutes for February 19th, 2019.
Motion to approve.

ALD CRAWFORD:

So move.

ALD OSENGA:

Second.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderman Crawford and Seconded by Alderman Osenga. Any discussion...edits?

CLARA HALL JOHNSON:

Yes, on page 2... I have Bertrand present and he was absent. I will make that correction.

PETITIONS

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Minutes are approved (with noted correction). Moving on to Petitions. We have two submitted. Lynn Jaffe regarding parking and Susan Hankey regarding the gas line through Cobb Park. We will go on to Communications. If there are no objections, I would like to combine Items 8 A, B, C and D.

COMMUNICATIONS

ITEM 8A, B, C, & D:

- (A). South Wheelmen are Requesting Permission to Block off intersections listed on agenda to Host their Annual Cobb Park Criterium Bicycle Race on Sunday, June 2, 2019 from 8:30 A.M. until 5:00 P.M.
- (B). Aunt Martha's Health and Wellness is Requesting Permission to use the Farmer's Market Parking Lot to Host #Nosegoals19- National Red Nose Day on Thursday, May 23, 2019, from 2:00 P.M. until 7:30 P.M.
- (C). Kankakee County Museum is Requesting Street Closure to host The Voyageur Classic 5K Run/Walk on Saturday, August 31, 2019 from 8:00 A.M. until 9:30 A.M.
- (D). Kankakee County Museum is Requesting Closure of the Parking Lot of the French Heritage Museum at the Stone Barn to Host the Bastille Day Celebration on Saturday, July 13, 2019 from 12:45 P.M. until 4:00 P.M.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: If there are no objections, may I have a motion to approve?

ALD SWANSON: So move.

ALD GALL: Second.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderwoman Swanson and Seconded by Alderwoman Gall. Any discussion? All in favor

COUNCIL: Aye.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Opposed same sign? Motion carries. There are no Standing Committee Reports. Moving on to Item 10A Report of Officers. May I have a motion to approve the bills?

REPORT OF OFFICERS

ALD FAFORD: I move that we approve the report of officers, place the money in the in the proper accounts and pay the bills in the amount of \$597,557.44.

ALD TALL: Second the motion.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motion made by Alderman Faford and Seconded by Alderman Tall. Roll Call...

CLERK DUMAS: **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Baron (abstain from check#'s 2878, 1110 and 718), Lewis...

ALD TALL: I have a question before I vote. What is check # 74559 Fast Signs in the amount of \$345.48?

ELIZABETH KUBAL: Six different entities receiving business cards each were \$57.58.

ALD TALL: What is Newman Signs check #11112 for \$921.13?

ELIZABETH KUBAL: MFT sign materials.

ALD TALL: And we have Hall Signs check #1113?

ELIZABETH KUBAL: Same, MFT sign materials.

ALD TALL: I vote aye.

CLERK DUMAS: Thank you. Continued... Faford, Swanson, Crawford...

ALD CRAWFORD: I have a couple questions on bills....Bill # 74563...Abraham?

ELIZABETH KUBAL: Payment 3 of audit expenses...fiscal 18...

ALD CRAWFORD: Bill #74593 Verizon Wireless?

ELIZABETH KUBAL: Standard monthly bill.

ALD CRAWFORD: Okay, I vote aye...

CLERK DUMAS: Osenga, O'Brien, Gall
(abstain from check #'s 2878, 1110 and 718),
Malone Marshall, Kennedy

(14) Ayes (0) Nays

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motion Carries. Motion to approve the bills for the Community Development Agency?

ALD O'BRIEN: So move.

ALD SWANSON: Second.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderman O'Brien and Seconded by Alderwoman Swanson. Any discussion? Roll Call

CLERK DUMAS: **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Baron, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Swanson, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Kennedy
(14) Ayes (0) Nays

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motion carries. There is no Unfinished Business; no New Business and no Appointments. Moving onto Motions and Resolutions.

MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

ITEM 13A: Resolution Authorizing the Submittal of a Grant Application to Kankakee River Valley Community Foundation.

FRANK KOEHLER: The way the Resolution reads will allow the submittal of the grant for refurbishment of the Fifth Avenue Community Garden. Refurbish does not rank high ...they would like to see something new instead. There is a vacant lot the City owns at 380 North Chicago which could lend itself to Community Garden Cooperation Cornerstone Service. Two unique areas both of which are at the end of the Street at Yates and Roosevelt. We could use these two areas to stay within the \$10,000.00 ...the question to the Council is do we look at Yates and Roosevelt or do we look at 380 North Chicago.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: May I have a motion to approve the resolution?

ALD TETTER: So move.

ALD LEWIS: Second.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderman Tetter and Seconded by Alderwoman Lewis. Any discussion?

ALD KENNEDY: Who will maintain?

FRANK KOEHLER: Cornerstone Services has agreed to maintain the garden and the property.

ALD O'BRIEN: With the grant application due this Friday...

FRANK KOEHLER: Pick 2... the Grant is due tonight. Yates is closer to the high school and Roosevelt.

ALD BARON: I would say...(inaudible).

FRANK KOEHLER: 380 North Chicago and Yates Right –A-Way.

ALD TETTER: I amend the motion to include: 380 North Chicago and Yates Right –A-Way.

ALD LEWIS: Second

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Roll Call

CLERK DUMAS: **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Baron, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Swanson, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Kennedy
(14) Ayes (0) Nays

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: The resolution is approved. Moving onto Item 13B.

ITEM 13B: Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Certify the Abatement of Bond Levies for Bonds Previously Issued under the City's Full Faith and Credit (General Obligation) and to Authorize the City Clerk to Deliver the Certifications to the Clerk of Kankakee County.

ELIZABETH KUBAL: This is the Annual Abatement Resolution that we do each year to tell the County Clerk's Office Officially that we have certain bonds abating meaning they have sources of payment. We list the amount out when we pass the amount in December. This is a separate document that have to be provided as our certification.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: May I have a motion to approve the resolution?

ALD MALONE MARSHALL: So move.

ALD TETTER: Second.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderwoman Malone Marshall and Seconded by Alderman Tetter. Any discussion? Roll Call

CLERK DUMAS: **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Baron, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Swanson, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Kennedy
(14) Ayes (0) Nays

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motion carries. Moving on to Item 13C.

ITEM 13C: Memorandum of Agreement between Kankakee Community College and the City of Kankakee to Provide the Strategic Planning Session.

JAMES ELLEXSON: This Agreement is for Continuing Education and Career Services. Dr. Kondon and Mary Posing will teach Strategic Management. They have agreed to create a curriculum for this year's session. The cost is \$2500.00 not to exceed \$3,000.00.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: May I have a motion to approve the Agreement?

ALD SWANSON: So move.

ALD LEWIS: Second.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderwoman Swanson and Seconded by Alderwoman Lewis. Any discussion? Roll Call..

CLERK DUMAS: **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Baron, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Swanson, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Kennedy
(14) Ayes (0) Nays

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MAYOR WELLS- ARMSTRONG: Motion carries. We do have a need for Executive Session For the purpose of the appointment employment compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body. We have candidates her tonight to interview for Police Chief. . May I have a motion to go

into Executive Session?

ALD OSENGA: I so move.

ALD TETTER: Second.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderman Osenga and Seconded by Alderman Tetter. All in favor?

COUNCIL: Aye.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Opposed same sign. We are now in Executive Session. Roll Call

CLERK DUMAS: **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Baron, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Swanson, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Kennedy
(14) Ayes (0) Nays

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motion to leave Executive Session and Return to Open Session...

ALD MALONE MARSHALL: So move.

ALD LEWIS: Second.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderwoman Malone Marshall and Seconded by Alderwoman Lewis. All in favor aye?

COUNCIL: Aye.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: We are now back in Open Session. Moving on to Item 16 Alderman Comments.

ALDERMAN COMMENTS

ALDERMEN & ALDERWOMEN: *(None)*

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: The National Congress in Washington D.C. is coming Up. The Budget Committee Meeting moved to Thursday March 14th, 2019 same time same place. Business...in the 5th Ward on North Entrance. Kankakee United Team met

with Olivet and they have turned over all the data to us in referencing to partnering with our community stakeholders. Please send you feedback by Friday by close of business.

ALD CRAWFORD:

Do you know what the cost will be for School District 111 Grant audit?

ADJOURNMENT

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: \$2500.00 and we will discuss this at the Budget Committee Meeting. If nothing else, May I have a motion to adjourn?

ALD SWANSON:

So move.

ALD MALONE MARSHALL:

Second.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderwoman Swanson. Seconded by Alderwoman Malone Marshall. All in favor aye?

COUNCIL:

Aye.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Opposed same sign. We are adjourned.